



Ophelia by John Everett Millais

*Her clothes spread wide,
And, mermaid-like, a while they bore her up;
Which time she chanted snatches of old tunes...*

Tomorrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime,
And I a maid at your window,
To be your Valentine.

Hamlet, Act IV, scene V
William Shakespeare

Millais painted *Ophelia* between 1851 and 1852 in two separate locations: the landscape by the Hogsmill River at Ewell in Surrey; and the figure of Ophelia in his Gower Street studio in London. His model was 19-year-old Elizabeth Siddall, whom he discovered working in a hat shop. She later married another of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, the painter and poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti.